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One thing that I want to address is the classic rules of graffiti (followed by most) that may be different in cities based on the amount of graffiti. That's funny, because I always thought we had more anonymous haters than anything. I want to address the fact that I don't consider myself being "up" like that. I have a day job and I'm not out there every night to even be considered a real "bomber." The internet is a deceiving place. Keep that in mind.

How many members are in SMART CREW?

We got a good number of heads since it's not just a graffiti crew. Even though it was created in '97 from a merger of two graffiti crews, "SM" and "ART," most of the writers in SMART have gotten over the graffiti thing years ago. As for me and a few others who are still active, we just have a hard time kicking the habit I guess. If you want to get down, a master's degree or proof that you are working towards one is mandatory! Applications are being taken at <http://www.smart-crew.com>

It seems like you guys are into the Sticker/Wheatpaste game. How did that come about since most writers hate on that kind of thing?

Let us not forget that Queens repped the wheatpaste/sticker game right in the 90's. You can say we are just carrying on that tradition with some added humor. This kind of shit has been around for a minute. It's nothing new and anyone can do it. I never put up a single sticker on my own so I can't really get in trouble for it.

As a crew, SMART seems to be very business-minded. You guys have bigger plans than just the streets?

We plan to start a "bog" enterprise from street level distribution to owning acres of land with at least 40 cows. The same way CON does it in Poland.

Do you think that there are a lot of suckers in the game now too afraid to go big and do the blockbuster type stuff?

I think there are mainly two ways of getting up. One is when you are just drunk/high and going around the city finding anything possible to write on. As fun as it sounds, it usually involves a lot of luck and not caring about going to jail.

Then, there are those who go out (possibly sober) for the best spots and plan everything out thoroughly. I'm sure everyone is guilty of doing both as well as a mix, but certain writers have their preferences. In my eyes, you are going to get the same exact same charge for getting caught catching a tag in the middle of nowhere versus doing an illegal colorful piece at a crazy live spot. So, you already know what I'd rather go for.

Who do you respect out there right now?

I respect writers who do their thing dolo and don't associate themselves with other writers. The quality of their work can be horrible or be really good, it doesn't matter. "The worst thing for a writer is to know another writer, and worse than that, to know a number of other writers..." - Bukowski

Peace to BOMBIN' Magazine, but I think it is a bad career move to do graffiti interviews for magazines or footage for graffiti videos. Once that whole "mystery" factor is gone and you see what the person looks like or get to know them, you lose a lot of respect for them. It's obviously too late for myself, but that's my advice. Don't put yourself in the limelight because you will eventually regret it.

In your eyes, is New York City still the graffiti capital of the world?

During the train era, we definitely pioneered a lot of this shit when it came to graffiti. However, in the last decade or so, I feel that the West Coast has taken over the title.



I think most New Yorkers take it for granted that graffiti still runs for such a long time here. In other places, you risk some serious charges just to see your graffiti up for a few days, a week or a month at most. Those kinds of buffs in other cities filters out all the toys who do it just for the fame. That could be a main reason why the quality of native NYC graffiti has gone downhill while most out of town graffiti here looks "better" in general. It should be time for some of the quality writers in NYC to come out of hiding and help take our title back.

Also, I guess NYC is still considered a "mecca" of graffiti since all these Europeans still come over here to paint our subways.

How do you feel about the clean train scene?

Disclaimer: I never painted ANY transit property in my life. If my name ever appeared on a clean train, station, tunnel or highway, it was someone else that painted it for me.

Once you mess with trains, you definitely get a lot of heat. People obviously do it for the flix or bragging rights, but then you also gotta keep the flix on the low. I don't feel like it's worth it to be painting trains consistently if you live in NYC. But, to each their own. I still think that graffiti looks the best on some metal. It will take the cooperation of a lot of writers to bring the trains back. I doubt that will ever happen with the egos of writers today.

I can't front like I knew what it was like to see trains running back in the day, but I'm sure it was very inspirational. It was in your face and you had no choice but to look at it on your morning commute or way to school. Since trains no longer run, we need to bring back that "in-your-face" type of creativity back to street so the next generation of writers can actually have something to look up to.

Any last words?

Like I said before, the internet ruined graffiti...
Each one, teach one... Keep NYC graffiti alive...

Interview by Bombin' Staff

